

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-30, without prejudice or disclaimer, which were originally filed with co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/837, 447, what is now U.S. Patent No. 6,279,654.

Please add the following new claims, certain of which have been copied or substantially copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,173,777, which issued on January 16, 2001, in accordance with the provisions of 37CFR 1.607 and MPEP §2307 for purposes of provoking an interference between the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,173,777:

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31. A casing or tubular fill up and circulating tool, comprising:

a body having an internal passage leading to at least one outlet port adjacent a lower end of said body;

a seal mounted externally to said body;

a valve in said internal passage, said valve movable between an open and a closed position in response to insertion, at least in part, and substantial removal, of said body, respectively, as to the casing or tubular.

32. The tool of claim 31, further comprising:

an actuator on said valve extending externally to said body where it can engage the casing or tubular on insertion, at least in part, of said body.

33. The tool of claim 32, wherein said actuator further comprises:

a sliding sleeve moveable with respect to said body for covering and uncovering said at least one outlet port, said seal being mounted to said sliding sleeve such that contact of said seal with said casing or tubular during insertion of said body into said casing or tubular moves said sleeve to uncover said at least one outlet.

34. A casing or tubular fill up and circulating tool, comprising:

a body having an internal passage; and

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~~a seal mounted externally to said body;~~

a valve for said internal passage, said valve movable between an open and a closed position in response to insertion, at least in part, and removal, at least in part, of said body, respectively, as to the casing or tubular.

35. The tool of claim 34, further comprising:

an actuator on said valve extending externally to said body where it can engage the casing or tubular on insertion, at least in part, of said body.

36. A casing fill up and circulation apparatus, comprising:

a body having a first port and a second port to provide communication with an interior of said casing and being insertable into said casing;

a seal for said body which is engageable with said casing when said body is inserted in the casing;

a first valve for controlling fluid through said first port; and

a second valve for controlling fluid through said second port.

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(providing a valve for said passage; and) where

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising:

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engaging said external seal with the casing to effect said opening.

lowering a body having an external seal and a passage therethrough at least in part into
said casing or tubular;

providing an actuator for said valve mounted externally to said body; and

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operating said valve by engagement of said actuator with said casing or tubular.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

mounting said external seal on a sliding sleeve (to provide said actuator) such that engagement of said seal with said casing or tubular during said insertion opens said valve.

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